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### **House Intelligence Committee Conducts Oversight Hearing Regarding U.S. Intelligence in Iraq**

**Washington, D.C.** –The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence held a hearing today to examine the quality of current and strategic intelligence regarding the conflict in Iraq.

The Committee invited Lee Hamilton, co-chair of the Iraq Study Group, to outline that body's key report and recommendations and explain the intelligence-related recommendations contained in the report.

The Committee also examined the intelligence support provided to policymakers by the nation's intelligence agencies. Testimony was received from senior officials of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

"I am pleased that the Intelligence Community is dedicated to tackling the critical challenges in Iraq," said Committee Chairman Congressman Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, TX. "But I remain concerned that, almost four years after we invaded Iraq, we don't fully understand the threats to U.S. troops or the dynamics preventing improvements to political stability and security. In this respect, I think the observations made by the Iraq Study Group are valid." Reyes said he also intends to examine the extent to which policymakers are factoring Intelligence Community assessments into their decision-making.

"The Iraq Study Group's findings about the Intelligence Community's lack of necessary foreign language skills, cultural understanding and the need for greater continuity of service by intelligence officers mirror those of the committee's oversight hearings for the past year," said U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-MI, top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee. "The executive branch must focus on addressing these issues to strengthen our intelligence position both in Iraq as well as strategically overall. I was pleased to hear from our government witnesses that many of the efforts and improvements are underway."

"I believe, however, that the Committee must maintain a focus on these areas to ensure all is being done," Hoekstra added. "I thank Chairman Reyes for holding today's hearing and continuing the Committee's emphasis on these issues from the last Congress."

Today's hearing is the first in a series that the Committee will hold to examine the Intelligence Community's capabilities regarding Iraq. Subsequent hearings will focus on intelligence support to the warfighter, as well as the financial and opportunity costs of devoting substantial U.S. intelligence resources to Iraq.

"Given the daily threat to our men and women in uniform in the Middle East, it is appropriate that the Intelligence Community dedicate its human, technical and financial resources to mitigating the challenges we face in Iraq," Reyes said. "But those choices have costs, and Congress needs to understand how our efforts in Iraq affect our ability to address other critical national security threats."